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| 09/966,733 | 10/01/2001 | Taco Van Ieperen | 04694.00075 | 3598 |

27160 7590 12/22/2004

KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 WEST MONROE STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60661-3693

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| EXAMINER |
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NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2143

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Applicati n N . | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/966,733 | IEPEREN, TACO VAN | |
| | Examin r | Art Unit | |
| | George C. Neurauter, Jr. | 2143 | |

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the c ver sheet with the correspondenc address --

Period f r Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Pri rity under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are currently pending and have been examined.

Claim Interpretation

The element "optimistic editing model" defined on page 10, paragraphs 38 and 39 of the specification and recited in claim 5 will be given its broadest reasonable interpretation and will be interpreted by the Examiner as a model that refreshes changed information based upon a polling interval that is consistent with the disclosures of the specification and the interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach. See MPEP § 2111.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6 636 889 B1 to Estrada et al.

Regarding claim 1, Estrada discloses a method for creating and managing a shared workspace (referred to throughout the

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reference as "place") in a network environment comprising the steps of:

creating a shared workspace accessible to participants of a scheduled meeting; (Figure 8; column 8, line 66-column 9, line 12; column 18, lines 25-56)

categorizing data stored in said shared workspace ("fields"; column 19, line 34-column 20, line 30, specifically column 20, lines 6-11); and

exposing said categorized data stored in said shared workspace to each participant ("user") of said scheduled meeting accessing said shared workspace through a graphical user interface ("browser"), said graphical user interface enabling each participant to input data into appropriate categories of said shared workspace and edit categorized data exposed through said graphical user interface. (column 27, line 45-column 28, line 57, specifically column 27, line 56-column 28, line 6)

Regarding claim 2, Estrada discloses the method of claim 1 wherein data stored in said shared workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (column 5, lines 19-24; column 17, lines 24-61)

Regarding claim 3, Estrada discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said categorized data stored in said shared workspace

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can be exposed to multiple participants simultaneously. (column 24, lines 41-55, specifically lines 47-52)

Regarding claim 4, Estrada discloses the method of claim 3 wherein said categorized data stored in said shared workspace can be edited by multiple participants simultaneously. (column 24, lines 41-55, specifically lines 42-47)

Regarding claim 5, Estrada discloses the method of claim 4 wherein changes to categorized data stored in said shared workspace made by participants are applied to said categorized data using an optimistic editing model. (column 23, lines 13-25)

Regarding claim 6, Estrada discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created automatically when a new meeting is scheduled. (column 12, lines 6-25)

Regarding claim 7, Estrada discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising the step of sending a link to the created shared workspace to each participant of the scheduled meeting. (column 28, line 67-column 29, line 4; column 29, lines 57-58)

Regarding claim 8, Estrada discloses the method of claim 7 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (column 8, line 66-column 9, line 12; column 28, line 67-column 29, line 4; column 29, lines 57-58)

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Regarding claim 9, Estrada discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created for a new meeting in response to user input. (column 10, lines 14-22)

Regarding claim 10, Estrada discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising the step of sending a link to the created shared workspace to each participant of the meeting. (column 28, line 67-column 29, line 4; column 29, lines 57-58)

Regarding claim 11, Estrada discloses the method of claim 10 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (column 8, line 66-column 9, line 12; column 28, line 67-column 29, line 4; column 29, lines 57-58)

Regarding claim 12, Estrada discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of restricting access to the categorized data stored in said shared workspace to participants of the scheduled meeting based on network login information. (column 17, lines 24-29; column 31, lines 27-29)

Regarding claim 13, Estrada discloses the method of claim 12 wherein said network login information includes user login identifications. (column 31, lines 27-29; column 33, lines 60-66)

Regarding claim 14, Estrada discloses the method of claim 13 wherein during creation of said shared workspace, the user

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login identifications of participants of said scheduled meeting are stored with said shared workspace ("member directory"), during access to said shared workspace by a user, the login identification of said user being compared with the login identifications stored with said shared workspace. (column 17, lines 52-57; column 18, lines 25-56)

Regarding claim 15, Estrada discloses a method for creating a secure shared meeting workspace associated with a scheduled meeting in a network environment, said method comprising the steps of determining the participants in the scheduled meeting; (column 31, lines 40-45 and 49-53)

creating a workspace for the scheduled meeting; (Figure 8; column 8, line 66-column 9, line 12; column 18, lines 25-56) and

restricting access to the workspace to those participants in the scheduled meeting based on network login information associated with said participants. (column 17, lines 24-29; column 31, lines 27-29)

Regarding claim 16, Estrada discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said network login information includes user login identifications. (column 31, lines 27-29; column 33, lines 60-66)

Regarding claim 17, Estrada discloses the method of claim 16 wherein during creation of said shared workspace, the user

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login identifications of participants of said scheduled meeting are stored with said shared workspace ("member directory"), during access to said shared workspace by a user, the login identification of said user being compared with the login identifications stored with said shared workspace. (column 17, lines 52-57; column 18, lines 25-56)

Regarding claim 18, Estrada discloses the method of claim 17 wherein said network login information is retrieved from an address book stored by an email and scheduling application. ("Notes client"; column 12, lines 19-25)

Regarding claim 19, Estrada discloses a method of restricting access to a secure shared meeting workspace associated with a scheduled meeting entered into an email and scheduling application in a network environment to participants of the scheduled meeting, said method comprising the steps of during a request for access to said workspace, comparing network login information associated with the user making said request, with network login information associated with the participants in the scheduled meeting; and permitting access to said workspace when the user network login information corresponds with the participant login information. (column 17, lines 52-57; column 18, lines 25-56)

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Regarding claim 20, Estrada discloses the method of claim 19 wherein the user login information is obtained by making a series of Windows API calls. (column 12, lines 19-25)

Regarding claim 21, Estrada discloses a system for creating and managing a secure shared workspace for a scheduled meeting comprising:

a workspace server ("Quickplace server") executing a server shared workspace application ("Quickplace module") for creating and managing a shared workspace associated with a scheduled meeting, data stored in said shared workspace being categorized ("fields"; column 19, line 34-column 20, line 30, specifically column 20, lines 6-11) and being accessible only to participants of said scheduled meeting; (column 12, lines 6-25; column 17, lines 24-29; column 31, lines 27-29)

an email server executing a server email and scheduling application (column 8, line 66-column 9, line 7); and

a plurality of workstations, each of said workstations executing a client email and scheduling application ("Notes client") and a client shared workspace application ("browser"), said client shared workspace application including a graphical user interface to enable each participant of said scheduled meeting to access and edit categorized data stored in said

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shared workspace. (column 27, line 45-column 28, line 57, specifically column 27, line 56-column 28, line 6)

Regarding claim 22, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein data stored in said shared workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (column 5, lines 19-24; column 17, lines 24-61)

Regarding claim 23, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 22 wherein the client shared workspace application communicates with the client email and scheduling application executed by each workstation (column 12, lines 6-11), said client shared workspace application intercepting meeting requests generated by said client email and scheduling application to determine whether a shared workspace is to be created for a new meeting being scheduled or whether a shared workspace existing for a scheduled meeting is to be updated. (column 12, lines 6-25; column 13, lines 24-column 14, line 14, specifically column 13, lines 37-41; column 15, lines 31-37)

Regarding claim 24, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared workspace application instructs the server shared workspace application to create a shared workspace for a new meeting being scheduled automatically. (column 12, lines 6-25)

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Regarding claim 25, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared workspace application asks the user scheduling the new meeting whether a shared workspace for the new meeting is to be created and instructs the server shared workspace application to create a shared workspace for the new meeting when specified by said user. (column 10, lines 14-22)

Regarding claim 26, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein the client shared workspace application attaches a link to the shared workspace to the meeting request generated by the client email and scheduling application before the meeting request is sent to the server email and scheduling application. (column 8, line 66-column 9, line 12; column 28, line 67-column 29, line 4; column 29, lines 57-58)

Regarding claim 27, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client and server shared workspace applications permit multiple participants to access and edit data stored in said shared workspace. (column 24, lines 41-55)

Regarding claim 28, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 27 wherein changes to data stored in said shared workspaces are applied using an optimistic editing model. (column 23, lines 13-25)

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Regarding claim 29, Estrada discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein said server shared workspace application restricts access to said shared workspace based on user network login information. (column 17, lines 24-29; column 31, lines 27-29)

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following prior art teaches the start of the art in shared workspaces in a network system:

US Patent 5 724 508 to Harple et al;

US Patent 5 107 443 to Smith et al;

US Patent 6 629 129 to Bookspan et al;

US Patent 6 411 988 to Tafoya et al;

US Patent 6 574 617 to Immerman et al;

Microsoft Corporation, "Introducing Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server 2001", May 2001, 22 pages.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100